

FALL 2005

# The Apache

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF TYLER JUNIOR COLLEGE

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TYLER JUNIOR COLLEGE



WE'RE CHANGING LIVES

Tyler Junior College gives equal consideration to all applicants for admissions, employment, and participation without regard to race, creed, color, national origin, gender, age, marital status, disability, or veteran status.

# Calendar of EVENTS

## SEPTEMBER 12

*Foundation Golf Tournament*

Willow Brook Country Club - 11 a.m.

## SEPTEMBER 16

*Founders' Day Memorial*

*Ceremony*

Windsor Plaza - 7:45 a.m.

## SEPTEMBER 29

*Faulconer Scholarship Dinner*

Apache Rooms - 6:30 p.m.

## OCTOBER 6 - 10

*Theatre Production:*

*"Quality Street"*

Jean Browne Theatre - 7:30 p.m.

Sunday Matinee - 2:00 p.m.

## OCTOBER 17 - 22

*Homecoming Week*

See back cover for a list of events

## OCTOBER 27

*Jazz Band Moonlight Serenade*

Apache Rooms - 6:00 p.m.

## OCTOBER 29

*Scholarship Dinner*

Jenkins Hall Front Lawn - 7:00 p.m.

## NOVEMBER 10

*Wind Ensemble*

Wise Auditorium - 7:30 p.m.

## NOVEMBER 18 & 19

*Pops Concert*

Wise Auditorium - 7:30 p.m.

## NOVEMBER 22

*Fall Choral / Small Ensemble Concert*

Wise Auditorium - 7:30 p.m.

## DECEMBER 1 - 5

*Theatre Production:*

*"Scapino"*

Jean Browne Theatre - 7:30 p.m.

## DECEMBER 2 - 4

*"The Nutcracker"*

Wise Auditorium - 7:30 p.m.

Sunday Matinee - 2:00 p.m.

The Apache Magazine is published bi-annually by Tyler Junior College.

The Apache Magazine is printed in the U.S.A. by Digital Printing and Imaging, Tyler, TX.

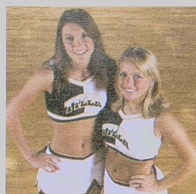
Changes of address should be mailed to:  
Apache Magazine  
Tyler Junior College  
P.O. Box 9020  
Tyler, TX 75711-9020

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# The Apache

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF TYLER JUNIOR COLLEGE



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Dear Readers,

The word “question” derived from the Latin *quarrier* (to seek), shares the same root as the word “quest.” At *The Apache* magazine we have embarked on a voyage of our own.

As those of you familiar with *The Apache* will see, we have revamped the magazine’s format. We’ve given it a new look, content direction and purpose.

What’s next? Simply to continue the journey: one that will help us clearly define the fundamental reason for our College magazine and how it can better help us—and you—connect with alumni, family and friends through its pages.

Enclosed you will find a Readership Survey. It is comprised of just a few questions. We ask that you complete it and return it to us postage-paid, at your convenience. That’s all there is to it.

We will share the results of the Readership Survey with you in an upcoming issue.

We appreciate your participation and input, and, as always, we welcome your comments along the way.

—The Editors




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## COVER PICTURE:

Heather Harmon of Tyler



A photograph of a middle-aged man with light hair, smiling warmly. He is wearing a dark blue suit jacket, a light blue dress shirt, and a patterned tie. His arms are crossed, and he is wearing a gold watch on his left wrist. The background is a soft, out-of-focus indoor setting.

## It's a Time of Enthusiasm and Renewal

Welcome to the Fall 2005 edition of *The Apache* magazine and the beginning of a new academic year.

Our faculty and staff are excited to welcome what promises to be a great year for Tyler Junior College. It's a time of enthusiasm and renewal.

And, with the start of a new year, I am afforded the opportunity to welcome you with a review of our College's history, some recent milestones and an invitation to see firsthand what makes Tyler Junior College special.



To our many former students and caring faculty and staff, the source of our pride as an institution is no secret. Our College continues to be grounded in the principles upon which it was founded in 1926: open enrollment; rigid, quality academic preparation for students on a baccalaureate track; affordable tuition; a full college-life experience; and service to the community.

New residents of our growing region will find that Tyler Junior College touches and shapes thousands of lives in many different ways. High school students are taking college-level courses through TJC, many of them receiving high school and college credit simultaneously. Area employers have a flexible training resource at their disposal, offering tailor-made on-site and campus-based instruction. Small business entrepreneurs benefit from the Small Business Development Center and the Tyler Area Business Incubator. Individuals who need adult basic education to prepare them to tackle language barriers or complete a G.E.D. are assisted by the Literacy Council of Tyler, based on our West campus.

The daily impact of our institution is phenomenal.

A study performed by the Texas Association of Community Colleges three years ago estimated that the Tyler-area workforce embodies more than 2.5 million credit and non-credit hours of TJC training and that skills embodied in the present-day workforce increase the output of industries in the region by more than \$225 million.

Wages of our working former students were nearly \$80 million more than would have been possible without successful academic achievement at TJC.

The study also projected that over their next 36 years, the average TJC student's lifetime earnings would increase \$19 for every education dollar invested at TJC. That's a return on investment that should make parents

and students alike proud.

Last fall, *Community College Week* listed Tyler Junior College as one of the nation's fastest-growing community colleges. Considering community colleges represent the nation's fastest-growing sector of public education, that's quite an achievement.

Yet, while sheer growth is an outcome our State leaders desire and ultimately reward, growth in and of itself is not a source of great pride without proof of personal accomplishment.

To the credit of our faculty, the growth experienced during the past decade – at an annual rate of roughly 5 percent – has been matched by increases in graduation rates, course completion and, most recently, successful advancement from remedial work to college-credit work.

With every challenge, our instructors have risen to the occasion to introduce new academic approaches, inspire student performance, form new alliances and open doors.

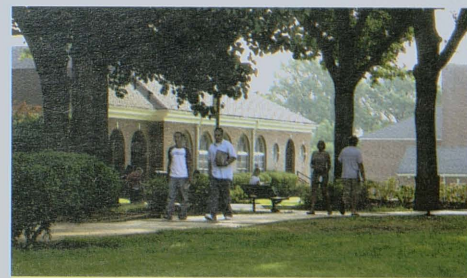
Community College Week  
has listed TJC as  
one of the nation's  
fastest growing  
community colleges.

Our faculty and staff continue to provide rigorous academic challenge for the advanced student as well as inspiration, organizational skills and motivation to our many first-generation college students.

That is the role of the community college and my greatest source of



Faculty advisement during orientation



Students walk across main campus courtyard.

pride as President: to uphold academic excellence while challenging each student, regardless of their preparation for college-level work, to achieve incremental successes that ultimately lead to the realization of their academic goals.

While I take pride in my tenure as President, the milestones I have seen the institution achieve during the past 10 years are a credit to our dedicated faculty and staff, our countless benefactors and the hard work of students who have felt inspired to achieve.

If you haven't been to our Main or West campuses lately, I encourage you to come take a tour. My office will be happy to assist you.

I believe you'll find our institution to possess the qualities and traditions of a premier university with the mission and focus truly becoming of the term *community college*.

On behalf of our faculty, staff and students, I hope you enjoy this edition of *The Apache*.

As we approach our 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we felt it was an appropriate time to bring new life, purpose and readership to this publication and to utilize it as a means to communicate with former students and community leaders throughout East Texas and beyond.

Enjoy the issue and let us know how this magazine can become even better by completing our readership survey and returning it to our marketing office.

*William R. Crowe*

Dr. William R. Crowe  
President, Tyler Junior College



# ON Campus

## APACHE BAND ON THE MOVE

The first kick-off was weeks away, but sounds familiar to football season could be heard all across Main campus this summer.

Not the sounds of crashing helmets and shoulder pads, but rather the sounds of a marching band that has grown to 200 members strong.

Charged by College President Dr. William R. Crowe to build the largest junior college band in the nation, TJC Band Director Tom Mensch is pleased with the progress as he enters his third year at the helm.

He and assistant band directors Tom McGowan and Heather Mensch have quadrupled the number of students in the program since the Spring of 2003. They attribute the growth to the College's commitment to a mighty band and to word of mouth.

"I came to TJC because I knew I'd get academic scholarships and have the opportunity at a performance scholarship with the band, too," said Nathan Chaney, a freshman from Martins Mill who is making an instrument transition from trumpet to French horn. "Plus, I had seen them march and perform when I was in high school and I thought 'wow,' they're really cool. I want to do that someday."



The Apache Marching Band performing in Dallas.

While meeting the goal of having the largest junior college band in the

nation will be a proud moment in his career, Mensch remains focused on teaching students to work hard, take



Freshman Nathan Chaney and sophomore Bonnie Brown.

responsibility and develop as a team.

"Three-fourths of these students may never play music again after they leave TJC," he said. "The important thing is that I teach them how to work together, to have a good work ethic, and to become better people in the long run."

With a bigger band comes more responsibility for the band staff and more concerts and public engagements.

Students may choose from 14 different musical groups in which to perform, including the Apache Band (marching band), the Apache Punch (drum line), a steel drum ensemble, the TJC Jazz Bands, and the Wind Ensemble. The groups will perform more than 50 times during the school year and for crowds estimated to exceed 32,000.

"Mr. Mensch is a friend outside of the office, but a true leader on the field," said sophomore band member Alesandra Garcia. "His selections of music are both challenging and fun for the band to play. He makes us work hard at the drills on the field, but it is worth it when we hear the crowd cheering."

During this Fall's football half-time shows, the Apache Band will entertain fans with *The Planets* by Gustav Holst and will also accompany the world-

famous Apache Belles. The TJC Jazz Bands' annual fund-raiser, Moonlight Serenade, also takes place in the Fall.

A dinner and dance, Moonlight Serenade is set for October 27. Proceeds will allow the band to invite John Fedchock, former musical director of the Woody Herman Band, to their jazz festival in March.

Probably the most exciting event of the school year will be the Band's trip to Germany and Austria to perform for US military troops, March 8-18. The Band will be accompanied on the trip by the Apache Belles, A Cappella Choir and Harmony & Understanding.

"Our students will bring a piece of home to our men and women who are making the ultimate sacrifices to allow the freedoms we enjoy today," said Mensch.

The Band will perform at Ramstein Air Force Base, then travel to Vienna to watch the A Cappella Choir and Harmony & Understanding perform at the 250<sup>th</sup> Mozart Celebration.

"It's the chance of a lifetime for these kids. I know our band members will be poised to do their best and will experience something they'll treasure the rest of their lives."

## SAVE THE DATES

### Homecoming Week

### Monday - Saturday October 17-22, 2005





## TJC is performing for our troops overseas and you're invited.

During the Spring of 2004, the TJC Apache Band, Apache Belles, A Capella Choir and Harmony & Understanding performed for our troops in Hawaii.

Once again, TJC's performance groups will entertain our troops during spring break of 2006.

TJC is proud of our talented students and welcomes the opportunity to entertain the men and women who bravely serve our Country.

You're invited to join us in supporting this one-of-a-kind event for our students.

### SCHEDULED STUDENT PERFORMANCES

Ramstein Air Force Base, Germany

250th Mozart Birthday Celebration, Vienna, Austria

For information on how you can be a part of this historic event March 8-18, 2006 call the TJC Foundation at 903-510-2382 or visit us online at [www.tjc.edu/foundation](http://www.tjc.edu/foundation).

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# ON Campus

## TWO NEW CIRCLE INDUCTEES

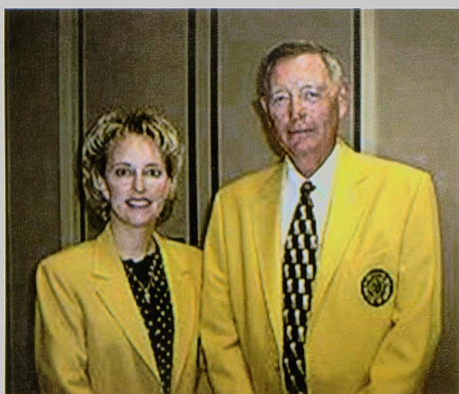
Growing up, Jim Wright used to ride his bicycle to the TJC campus to watch the Apaches' football practice. He dreamed of one day wearing the black and gold.

On July 9, Wright was inducted into the TJC Sports Circle of Honor in recognition of contributions to the TJC football squads of 1959 and 1960 and his success in life after his days in Apacheland.

Wright joined Jana Crosby Russell, a point and shooting guard for the Apache Ladies basketball teams of 1986-87 and 1987-88, as the newest members of the elite class of former athletes and coaches in the Circle.

The inductees recalled their years on the TJC campus and credited the College with contributing to life successes.

"The entire athletic program had a sense of class," said Mrs. Russell in her acceptance remarks. "Tyler allowed me to get to the next level and being here changed the course of my life dramatically."



**Inductees Jana Crosby Russell and Jim Wright.**

Mrs. Russell was named to the 1988 All-Region XIV and All-Texas Eastern Conference teams in 1987 and 1988. As an Apache Lady, she was team captain and scored a career-high

42 points in a tournament game at Wagstaff Gym. The next night of the tournament she scored 39.

She transferred to the University of Houston and as a Lady Cougar ended her college career leading the team in scoring. She set numerous Southwest Conference records, including most three-pointers in a game (10), career three-point field goal percentage (46%), career free throw percentage (88.1%) and three-point field goals in a season (89).

*"(TJC) also taught us to be examples for the attitudes of others."*

The records remain school records for the University of Houston. She was named All Southwest Conference for the 1988-89 and 1989-90 seasons and was named to the Southwest Conference All-Decade Team.

She served as head ladies basketball coach at Chapel Hill and Henderson high schools, leading Chapel Hill to a district championship and Henderson to three consecutive winning seasons. She was named District 16-4A Coach of the Year in 1995.

Wright was a versatile player who was a member of the 1960 national champion Apaches. He described his induction to the Circle of Honor as a tribute to the leadership of the TJC coaching staff.

"Success depends upon motivation. I can think of no better motivators than Coach Wagstaff and Coach Hallmark," he said. "They also taught us to be examples for the attitudes of others."

Wright played defensive back, halfback, safety and punter. He transferred to University of North Texas where he continued to star at all positions.

Upon graduation from North Texas, he became a teacher and coach in the Lufkin Independent School District and later athletic director and head football coach at Brownsboro. He has also served as principal at Navasota and Lufkin high schools and as assistant superintendent in Lufkin.

He has been superintendent of Bullard Independent School District for eight years.

He was named Region VII Superintendent of the Year in 2000.

The Circle of Honor was established 10 years ago as a way to recognize the great athletes and coaches who have been a part of this institution but it also serves as recognition of personal integrity and success beyond the realm of athletics," TJC President Dr. William R. Crowe said.

"The 43 individuals named to the Circle are not important to us just because of their contributions in sports but also because of their interest in helping others and doing the right thing."

Previous inductees to the Circle of Honor are: Floyd Wagstaff, Brady P. Gentry, Harry Bostic, Jimmy Dickey, Bonnie Buchanan Gray, Bill Johnson, David Lunceford, Jimmy Murphy, Mack Pogue, Herb Richardson, O'Neal Weaver, James "Poo" Welch, Russell Boone, Robert Leon Fuller, Bill Herchman, John Linney, Charlie McGinty, Janice Mulford, V.C. "Buck" Overall, Dan Page, Jose Palafox, Van Samford, Ken Coffey, Ray McGallion, Jack Murphy, Gene Shannon, Kenneth Bahnsen, Dwain Bean, Foster Bullock, James "Babe" Hallmark, Lawrence Strickland, Charles Quilter, Milton Williams, Royce Townsend, Johnny Johnston, Jesse Marshall, Fred Kniffen, Earl Dotson, Kelly Chapman, Roy Thomas and Robert Pack.



## TJC WELCOMES NEW COACH

With the passing of the football head coaching baton from Dale Carr to Jamie Critchlow, the Apaches will continue to be led by a man who knows what it's like to wear the black and gold on Saturdays.

Critchlow, a former Apache All-Conference offensive lineman returned to Tyler, eager to take over the program that gave him his start.

"It's exciting, no doubt," Critchlow says. "It's a dream come true, I've always wanted to be a head coach."

Critchlow came to TJC as a freshman in 1993 and played two years on the Apache offensive line. He was named First-Team All-Conference his sophomore year. He transferred to Oregon State University, where he earned PAC 10 Honorable Mention and the Beavers' Dee Andros Heart Award as a senior.



Coach Critchlow with his wife, Stephanie.

After graduating from Oregon State, Critchlow returned to Tyler to serve as offensive line coach for the Apaches from 1998 through 2003 under coach Carr. "I learned a lot from working with Dale," Critchlow says. In his six years at TJC working with linemen, Critchlow coached 11 Division I signees and five All-Americans. The Apaches also played in four bowl games during those six years.

"I've always had high expectations for this place, both as a player and then as an assistant coach," Critchlow said.

The Apaches opened their season August 27 against Navarro and return home for their first game at Trinity Mother Frances Rose Stadium on September 10 against the Kilgore Rangers.

The Apaches started the year ranked No. 4 in the nation, according to the National Junior College Athletic Association's preseason poll.

## TJC AWARDED PEPSI CUP

The TJC Apaches have been honored as the top athletic program in Texas, and one of the best in the country.

The National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics compiles an annual list of all junior and community colleges in the nation, and ranks them according to national achievement. The winning college is awarded the "Pepsi Cup." For the 2004-2005 season, TJC finished as the top school in Texas, and the 14<sup>th</sup> highest rated college in the country.

"That's an indication of the fine staff and faculty we've got here at TJC," Director of Intercollegiate Athletics Dr. Tim Drain said. "It's very hard to score points in the Pepsi Cup, and we're very proud of our student-athletes."

Tyler's men's and women's golf and tennis programs all made their national tournaments, with women's tennis winning the national championship.

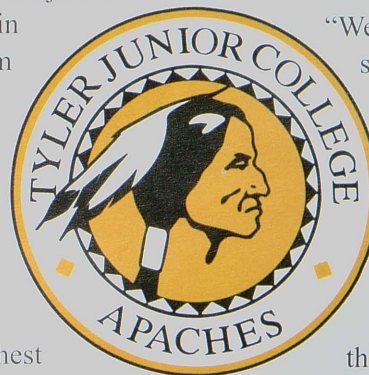
The Pepsi Cup has been in existence for two years, serving as a junior college equivalent to the four-year college Sears Cup.



Reid Kerr, Assistant Athletic Director

## KERR EXITS KLTV FOR TJC

There will be a familiar face in the Apache athletic offices this season. Reid Kerr, most recently a sportscaster with KLTV Channel 7, has joined the Apaches as assistant director of intercollegiate athletics.



"We're thrilled to have somebody with Reid's background and character join us here at TJC," Director of Intercollegiate Athletics Dr. Tim Drain says. "Reid can offer a dimension to this program that we've had as a goal for a while, and

that's a knowledge of the history of TJC."

Although Kerr is a new hire, his face and voice should be familiar to East Texans. He's spent three years at KLTV, working as a reporter and sports anchor. Prior to joining KLTV, Kerr served as radio play-by-play voice of Apache football and women's basketball from 1995 through 2000.

"The highlight of my broadcast career was watching the Apache Ladies do what no one expected them to do in 2000 by winning the national championship," Kerr said.



# Apache Territory

## Mixing Leadership With Scholarship

By Elise Mullinix





**T**hey're both named Sarah.  
They're both cheerleaders.  
They're both in Phi Theta Kappa.  
And apparently, the similarities  
don't end there.

Sophomores Sarah Mayfield and Sarah Ridley have proven themselves to be driven young women who give nothing less than their best, whether it's on the playing field or in the classroom.

TJC cheerleading coach Vincent Nguyen has nothing but the highest praise for Mayfield and Ridley.

"They are both fantastic students and athletes," Nguyen said. "I mean, we are talking about some dedicated women, here."

A science major from Winona, Sarah Mayfield wants to study biology or neuroscience.

"I'm thinking about either becoming a college instructor or going



**Sarah Mayfield**

to med school," Mayfield said.

Could her interest in science have a little to do with her father, TJC biology instructor Dennis Mayfield?

"Maybe it does," she said. "I did have him as my lab instructor last year. That was a little weird, but not too bad. Usually, the stories he tells in class are about me, so he didn't do that when I was in there. He was really good about not letting everybody know I was his daughter."

So, what if she had a question in class?

"I would've felt strange calling him 'Dad' or 'Mr. Mayfield,' so usually I would get one of my friends to raise their hand or call him over," she said.

Mayfield serves as president of TJC's Alpha Omicron Chapter of Phi



**The two Sarah's seem to share a lot of common ground.**

Theta Kappa, the international junior-college honor society, and is regional vice president.

She's also a STAR (Students to Alumni Relations) student and has a GPA of 3.89.

When she first joined the TJC cheerleading squad, Nguyen said he wasn't sure what to make of Mayfield.

"She was really quiet," he said. "Everybody thought, 'This girl isn't going to make the team.' But she showed us all. She made the cut. And right away, she started going above and beyond, whether it was by getting the crowd involved at the games or by encouraging a teammate."

"Her leadership abilities really came to the surface."

Sarah Ridley was another quiet student who grew into her leadership role.

Nguyen said, "Sarah Ridley was one of those girls who didn't go to any of the pre-tryout clinics. She just showed up to try out and she kind of shocked everybody with her ability."

Not only did Ridley make the team, he said, "she became a great leader and a great follower. Everybody fell in love with her right away. She's one of those people who is just very well liked."

Ridley said, "I've just always enjoyed cheerleading. I did it in high school and I wanted to do it here, too."

"I never did it just for the name –

just to be able to say I'm a cheerleader. I do it because I love working out and competing and seeing the results from all our hard work."

And don't question whether cheerleading is a sport.

"A lot don't see us as athletes, but we are," she said. "We're competitive and we work hard, and we get hurt sometimes, too."

As serious as she is about cheerleading, Ridley is just as attentive to her academic career.

"I've always been focused on my grades," she said. "I made A's in high school and I wanted to keep that going here, but there's a lot more work involved."

Ridley's academic record includes a Phi Theta Kappa membership, a leading role in the Student Senate, and a GPA of 3.72.

In addition to her school work and cheerleading activities, Ridley also holds down a part-time job at McAlister's Deli.

"The past year has really taught me about self-discipline and time management," she said. "It's not like high school, where you can let things slide then catch up later. You've got to set your goals and keep focused."

And sometimes sacrifices have to be made.

*(continued on page 20, column 3)*





# It's who we are

## Giving Back Just Part of Being TJC

By Becca Anderson

It is impossible to hide what is in the heart; it bubbles to the surface for all to see. TJC's heart has been readily apparent throughout the years. A recent example was the United Way of Tyler/Smith County's Day 12th annual Day of Caring, in June. Faculty and staff members volunteered their day of work to the cause, hammering, painting, planting, sorting - whatever needed to be done.



"We think it's important that our faculty and staff be involved in the community," said Dr. William Crowe, President of TJC and participant in the Day of Caring. "We're a *community* college."

In the past year alone, college employees, departments and student organizations have put in more than 1,000 hours of community service time.

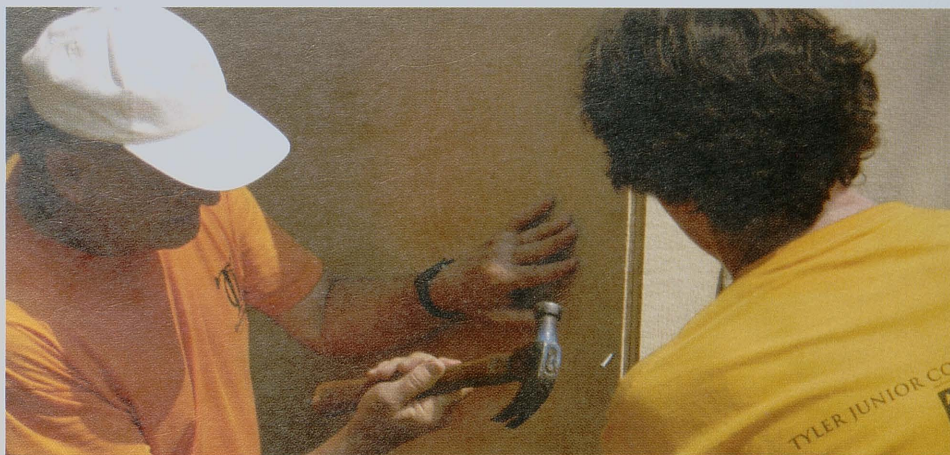
Barbara Bailey teaches vocational nursing at TJC, but on the Day of Caring she was painting hand railings to prevent splinters at a community literacy center. "It was interesting to me to learn more about illiteracy. I hope to work as a literacy volunteer in the future," she said. She was not alone in discovering a new passion for helping people in the community.

Linda Zeigler, chair of journalism and student publications, got to know her co-workers better while planting flowers at the Children's Advocacy Center. She also had her horizons broadened. "My gosh, the center does a lot of important work!" she said. "It was very satisfying being out in the 'real world' and seeing people working to make things better for others." Over 300 people from the Tyler area participated in the Day of Caring.



**Barbara Bailey paints a ramp railing at Douglas Elementary School.**

In describing his own experience on the Day of Caring, criminal justice instructor Jason Waller recounted his favorite moment on the Habitat for Humanity project. "It was when the homeowner came on her lunch hour to thank us for our efforts, and shared with us what is involved in getting a Habitat



**Retired math instructor David Demic applies a nail to a shed building at the Habitat home while Julie Spencer holds a panel in place.**

home. It was really special," he said. There are lingering benefits from participating in community service together, as faculty and staff that may not normally interact are able to bond.

"We engaged in a lot of team-building and problem solving while doing something good for the community," said Dr. Deborah Kelley, college preparatory studies department chair. "It also gave us a chance to make better connections with the people we work with."

Barbara Bailey volunteered specifically because it was a good opportunity to get to know other people around campus. "Our group included faculty, human resource personnel, other office staff and maintenance. We very quickly became a team," she said.

"The United Way of Tyler/Smith County is so appreciative of the commitment of organizations such as TJC, that understand the importance of giving back to the community," said Barbara King, communications director and one of the organizers of the annual event. "The group from TJC is always very motivated, enthusiastic and does a tremendous amount of good in one day," she said.

TJC's volunteer projects have far-reaching impact. A small sample of events college staff and students have participated in during the last year includes:

- Raising funds for breast cancer research and cure through The Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure (American Cancer Society) and National Lee Denim Day.

- Collecting pledges for heart disease research through Heart Walk (American Heart Association).
- Giving one of the largest contributions (25,000 items) to the annual canned food drive through PATH (People Attempting to Help).
- Participating in Walk A Mile for a Special Child (ARC: Association for Retarded Children).
- Phi Theta Kappa collecting 13,793 books and 8,510 cans for Project Graduation, as well as 100 coats for Coats for Kids in a separate campaign during the '04-'05 school year.
- Dedication of its entire football team to work a day for Habitat for Humanity.



**Dr. Deborah Kelley sets a chalk line at the Habitat site.**

"We have to step out and help others," Linda Zeigler said. "It's part of who we are at TJC."



# Apache Pride

## It All Begins With Orientation

By Elise Mullinix



Midlothian freshmen (left to right) Nathan Sugg, Chase Allen and Colby O'Neal are ready for life at TJC. Apache Orientation gave them a head start.



The reasons students come to Tyler Junior College are as varied as the ring tones chiming from their always-handy cell phones.

"I want to be a dentist."

"I'd like to study psychology or be a counselor."

"I want to start my own custom automotive shop."

"I want to teach third grade."

"I plan to be a nurse."

However diverse their fields of interest might be, one common theme is at work here:

TJC is where they have chosen to start.

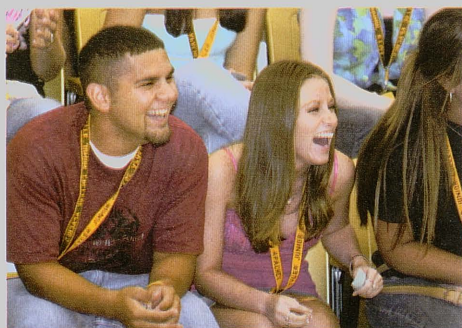
Winona freshman Lindsey Robertson's decision to attend TJC was both financial and geographical.

"I was in the top 10 of my high school graduating class," said Robertson, a pre-dental major. "TJC offered me a Top Ten Scholarship, and I just couldn't pass that up."

Top Ten Scholarships are awarded to high school students from the Tyler Junior College service area who graduate in the top 10 positions of their class. These scholarships are offered to students who, by invitation, attend an on-campus reception hosted by the president of the college in the fall semester of their senior year.

Brook Hill School's 2005 salutatorian Lindsey Lott also took TJC up on its offer of a Top Ten Scholarship.

"It's a great way to stay close to home and get your basic classes done," said Lott, who plans to major in business and be a stockbroker. "In



**Freshmen react to entertainment of 'Travelin' Max'**

fact, I think about seven out of the top ten students in my graduating class are coming here on the Top Ten Scholarship."

Besides the Top Ten Scholarship,



**Mary, Victor and Darrell Wells of Beaumont.**

Robertson said TJC's proximity to her hometown was a big selling point.

"I didn't want to move off," she said. "I plan to live at home while I'm going to college."

Staying close to home is another common thread among many TJC students.

According to statistics from 2004, almost 75 percent of TJC's entire enrollment that year consisted of students from the College's four-county service area: Smith County, 5,568 students; Cherokee, 590; Van Zandt, 568; and Wood, 594. That means 7,320 out of the TJC's 9,792 student population came from right here in East Texas.

Robertson said, "I chose TJC because a lot of my friends started out here, and they said it's more relaxed and I can get my basics out of the way.

"I didn't want to feel the pressure of jumping right into a four-year school. I felt like I could just step right into things here at TJC."

Like many college freshmen, Troup native Lauren Tollett hasn't yet decided on a major; but she's using TJC as her springboard.

"I know I enjoy talking to people, so I think I might like to study psychology or be a Christian counselor," she said.

Then there's Lindale freshman Joseph Lyons, who knows exactly where he's going.

A big-time aficionado of American-made muscle cars, Lyons said, "I've always enjoyed fixing motors. My grandfather got me interested in it.

"So, I'm going to study automotive technology and open my own custom

shop in the next few years."

During a visit to town, Buffalo native Crystal Jeffries found TJC and decided it was the place for her.

"It just seemed like a really nice



**Freshmen Lauren Tollett and Crystal Jeffries**

place to go to school," Jeffries said. "I plan to study early childhood education, then go on to be a third-grade teacher."

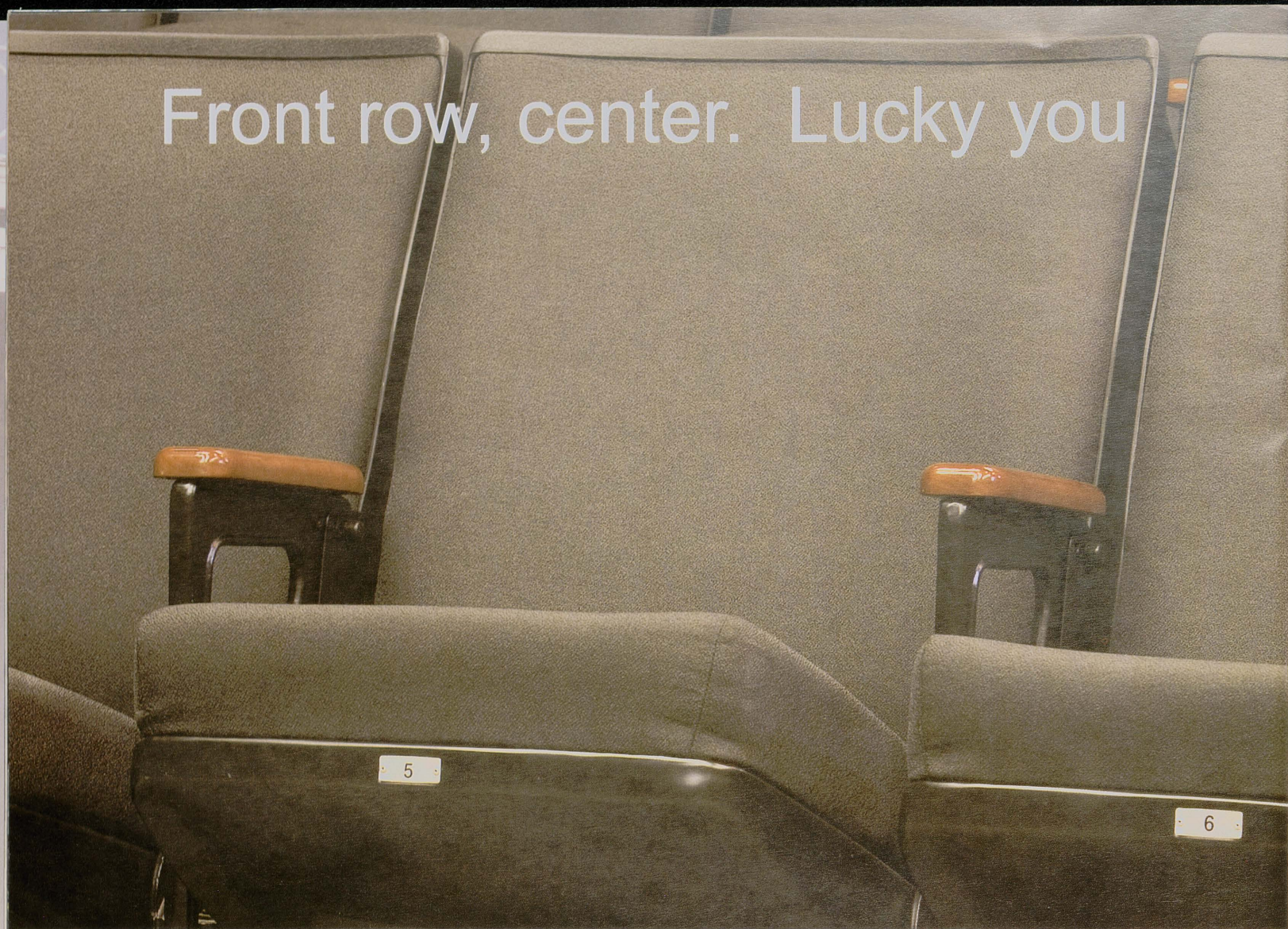
Darrell and Mary Wells of Beaumont had a big influence on their son, Victor, coming to TJC.

"For years, he talked about going straight to (the University of) North Carolina after high school," Mr. Wells said during a break in freshmen orientation activities. "But I had always heard good things about TJC, and I wanted him to check it out."

*(continued on page 20)*



# Front row, center. Lucky you



## The TJC Jean Browne Theatre invites you to have a seat.

Honor a loved one, a favorite teacher, a friend, a family member or your years at TJC with a personalized plate displayed on a theatre seat.

In memory of Dr. Jean Speller Browne, the Tyler Junior College Foundation has launched a campaign to raise scholarship funds for speech and theatre students.

With the help of Jean Browne, the speech and theatre department has grown from 6 students to 1,200 per semester, and Las Mascaras remains TJC's oldest honorary fraternity.

Your tax-deductible gift to the Jean Browne Scholarship Endowment will benefit students for generations to come and will mean a lifetime of recognition for you.

- Personalized plate on the handle of a theatre seat
- Recognition on a plaque displayed at the theatre
- Certificate suitable for framing
- Invitation to the Las Mascaras 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration

Log on to [www.tjc.edu/foundation](http://www.tjc.edu/foundation) or call 903-510-2520 to have a seat today.





## MASTER PLAN COMES ALIVE

The secret to continuous, productive growth is planning.

TJC has been meeting community educational needs for nearly 80 years, growing from its humble beginnings sharing facilities with Tyler Independent School District to a two-campus college with nearly 40 buildings.

Keeping pace with a growing enrollment is a challenge TJC leaders take seriously. In 2001, the College formalized its plans and dreams into a new Master Plan that encompasses key elements of future growth, including the need for more parking, expanded campus housing, additional academic space (the newest academic building was constructed in 1984), centralization of student services, and the addition of student interaction areas.

Necessary land acquisition has already begun. With the acquisitions, 700 parking places have been added, increasing available spaces from 2,700 to 3,400 - with an additional 125 spaces to come.

in 2005, an anonymous donor approached TJC to give significant funding for a new residence hall project, and this crucial part of the Master Plan came to life.

Houston-based 3D/International, Inc. facilitated a "visioning charrette" process to help the college define the needs for the new hall. This intensive design analysis involves the collaboration of all project stakeholders at the beginning of a project to develop a comprehensive plan or design. The visioning charrette provided an opportunity for input from the Board of Trustees, Student Life Committee (various staff and faculty), physical plant staff, information technology staff, Learning Council (school deans and department directors), residential life staff and, of course, students.

"The process was really interesting," said Sarah Van Cleef, director of business services. "It began with sticky notes on the board, and ended with a phenomenal PowerPoint presentation when they put it all together."

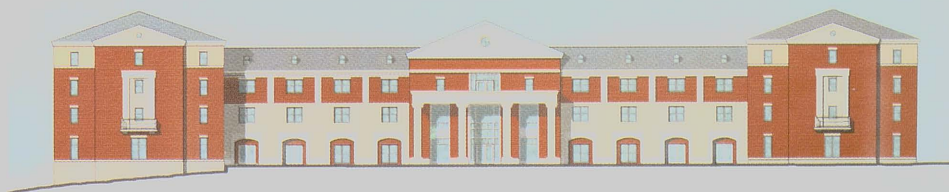
Six core values for the hall grew

- It must support TJC's diversity goals through its design.
- It must foster community with gathering areas and outdoor commons.
- It must sustain our commitment to quality and be a source of pride.

Plans are to locate the four-story residence hall on newly acquired land on the eastern portion of the main campus off South Blackwell Avenue. It will include 459 beds in 213 units, adding 152,000 gross square feet of building space to the campus. Each room will include cable, internet and phone connections to enhance student learning and living. Each floor will include student lounges and laundry facilities. The first floor will include a meeting room, multipurpose room, TV and game lounge, and mail rooms. Large lobbies on the first and second floors will give the hall an open and inviting atmosphere. Students will also enjoy a courtyard porch in the rear, several patio areas and a barbecue pit.

The hall will be adjacent to recreation areas on campus, including playing fields to the south. A new walking trail will be constructed in this area, as well. The lot itself is heavily wooded, and Fork Creek runs through it. With careful design, the construction will preserve the creek, and also the canopy of mature deciduous trees that are consistent with the rest of TJC's landscaping. The hall is projected to open in July 2007.

"I've been on the Student Development Committee for two years," Essie Childers, reading instructor for College Preparatory Studies, said. "Studies indicate that students who stay on campus the first year become more engaged, experience a sense of belonging, and even get higher grades. The new Residence Hall will enable us to expand that service to more students."



The architectural rendering of the proposed residence hall.

The most critical need, however, is a new residence hall. Each year, the College turns away more applicants for housing than it is able to accommodate in its eight residence halls. The current facilities are 30-50 years old and have limited opportunity for expansion or renovation beyond the College's 600-bed total. Early

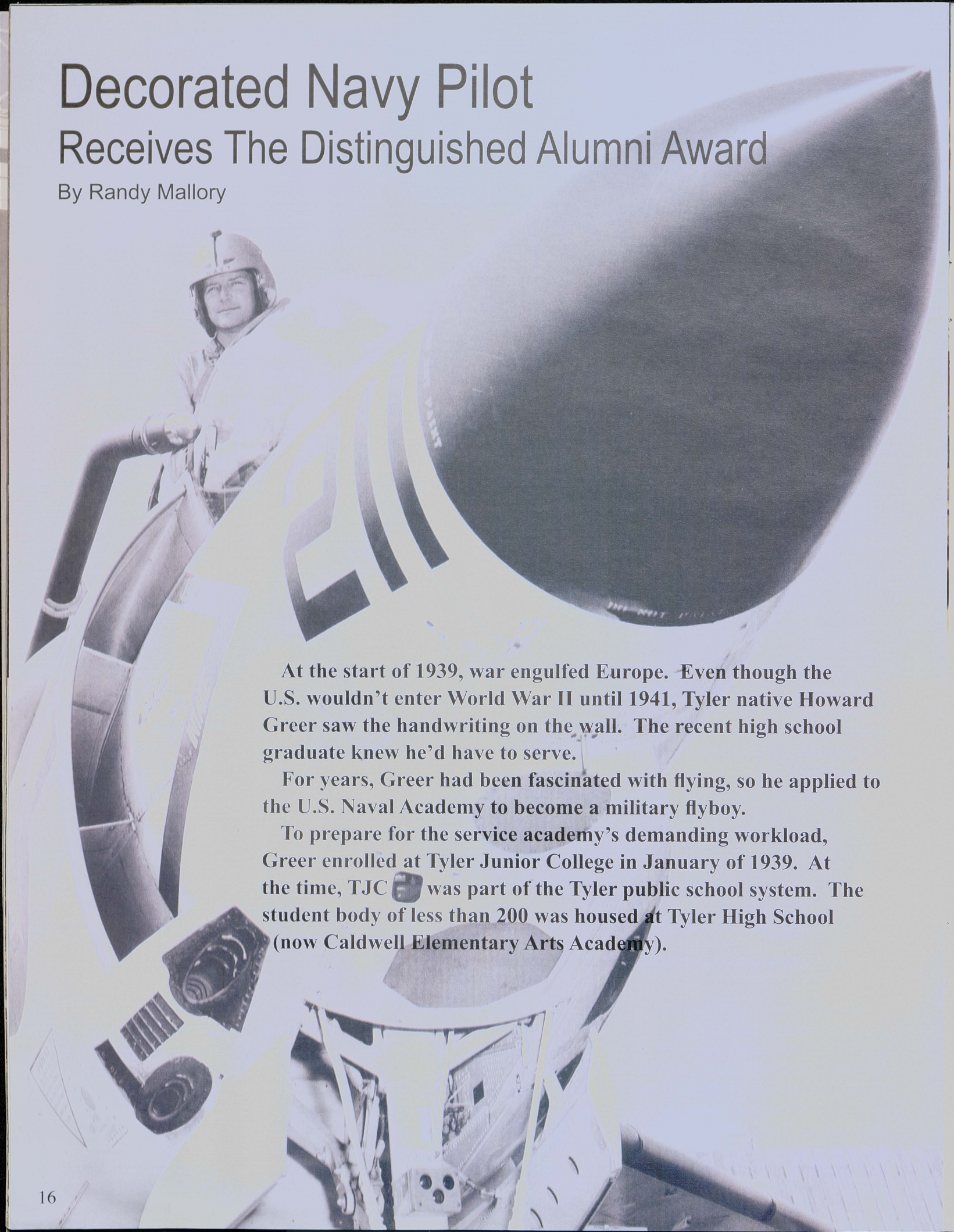
from the brainstorming process:

- It must be a people-centered place, meeting student living and study needs.
- It must look like the rest of TJC and support that historic vision.
- It must enhance the campus experience by its proximity to other facilities.



# Decorated Navy Pilot Receives The Distinguished Alumni Award

By Randy Mallory



At the start of 1939, war engulfed Europe. Even though the U.S. wouldn't enter World War II until 1941, Tyler native Howard Greer saw the handwriting on the wall. The recent high school graduate knew he'd have to serve.

For years, Greer had been fascinated with flying, so he applied to the U.S. Naval Academy to become a military flyboy.

To prepare for the service academy's demanding workload, Greer enrolled at Tyler Junior College in January of 1939. At the time, TJC was part of the Tyler public school system. The student body of less than 200 was housed at Tyler High School (now Caldwell Elementary Arts Academy).



Greer—who lives with his wife, Dale, in La Jolla, California—fondly recalls those early days of TJC. “My parents lived almost downtown, on West Ferguson Street, so I walked to school. I had played football in high school, but TJC didn’t have a football team yet, so I played tennis.

“Classes were very small, relaxed and enjoyable,” he adds. “TJC understood my personal goals and allowed me to concentrate on the math, physics and chemistry I needed. That preparation made my life at the Naval Academy much easier.”

Greer graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1943 as a commissioned ensign and went straight to combat in the Pacific Theatre. He served as an assistant gunnery officer on the aircraft carrier, *USS Princeton*, in critical operations such as the first Battle of the Philippine Sea. During the autumn of 1944, Greer was ordered to flight school. Six days after leaving the *Princeton*, the carrier was sunk by Japanese bombs during the Battle of Leyte Gulf.

“I’m a big  
TJC fan,  
especially when  
they beat Kilgore  
in football.”

“I was lucky,” Greer says in the matter-of-fact tone of a career naval officer.

Greer completed his flight training just three months after Japan surrendered and World War II ended. With newly-earned wings on his uniform, he was among the first generation of U.S. fighter pilots in the early 1950s to fly combat jets. During the Vietnam War, he completed four assignments lasting five years, including the dangerous mining of North Vietnam’s Haiphong harbor.

Throughout his rise in rank and



**Vice Admiral Howard Greer,  
U.S. Navy retired, TJC ‘41**

responsibility—as commander of a fighter squadron, aircraft carrier division, and eventually the U.S. Second Fleet in the Atlantic—Greer’s luck held out. “During 35 years of active service, I moved 32 times from duty to duty,” he says, “and each time I regretted having to move because I loved each of my assignments so much.”

Greer retired from active duty in 1978 with the rank of vice admiral. He spent the next 16 years consulting with major military contractors in California and Hawaii, working on key projects such as the Tomahawk cruise missile.

One early military placement had a particularly long-lasting side effect. While learning to become a fighter pilot in 1944 at South Texas’ Beeville Naval Air Auxiliary Station, Greer took up golf. “We learned how to hit the ball and avoid rattlesnakes at the same time,” he recalls. In retirement, he still plays golf two or three times a week.

Something else endures for Howard Greer—his love for TJC.

“I’ve tried to come back to Tyler each year to see the 80 or so relatives I have in the area,” he notes, “and I’ve also been able to keep up with

changes at TJC.

“In the 1970s, I gave the commencement address to graduating students. I told them how TJC had helped me prepare for life and service to country and how it was doing the same for them.”

At 84, Howard Greer still has the winning smile and sparkling eyes of an optimistic young naval officer. And he’s as impressed with TJC today as he was as a student in the days leading up to World War II. “I can hardly believe enrollment has grown from less than 200 during my time to 10,000. The opportunities here are much greater now. But I have the feeling that teachers continue to be close to their students and that TJC is still a relaxed place for learning.

“I’m a big TJC fan,” concludes



**Howard and Dale Greer**

Greer, “especially when they beat Kilgore College in football!”

On October 21, former Vice Admiral Howard Greer will be honored with Tyler Junior College’s most prestigious award, the TJC Alumni Association’s Distinguished Alumni Award.

**Alumni Association  
Awards Ceremony  
October 21, 2005  
6:00 p.m.  
Apache Rooms  
Rogers Student Center**



# Alumni NEWS

## 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL ALUMNI AWARDS

The TJC Alumni Association Awards Ceremony and Dinner/Dance will be held at 6 p.m. on Friday, October 21, in the Apache Rooms of Rogers Student Center. This year's honorees are:

### Vice Admiral Howard Greer, ret., '40 Distinguished Alumni Award



In 1939, Howard Greer attended classes at TJC to prepare him for his goal of attending the US Naval Academy. The College tailored

classes to meet his specific needs and in 1941 he was accepted into the Academy and in 1943 he received his Bachelor of Science degree. He later attended the University of Southern California, majoring in aviation safety and accident investigation.

He earned master's degree in business administration from George Washington University.

Greer began his career in the navy as a commissioned ensign in 1943 and retired as a naval aviator with the rank of Vice Admiral in 1978.

In World War II his first assignment was assistant gunnery officer in the Pacific combat operations and in 1944, he was sent to flight school. He later commanded a fighter squadron, an air wing, a fleet oiler, and an aircraft carrier.

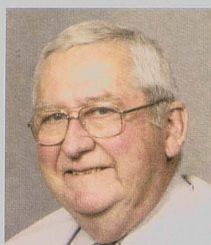
He was awarded 11 Battle Stars in WW II, two Distinguished Service Awards, four Legions of Merit, and was presented a Vietnam Distinguished Service Medal for his five years of service there.

After his retirement from the Navy, Greer worked for 16 years as a consultant to major aerospace companies. He is also a member of the Golden Eagles, a group of 200 Naval aviators who contributed significantly

to successful naval aviation in the last five wars.

He and his wife Dale, live in La Jolla where they enjoy visiting their six children and nine grandchildren. Howard plays golf regularly and rides annually with the Rancheros Visitadores horseback riding club.

### Kenneth Lewis, '52 Apache Spirit Award



In the past 45 years, perhaps no one has helped more students of Tyler Junior College to achieve their academic goals than

Kenneth Lewis.

Lewis received his bachelor's degree in animal science and agriculture education from Texas A&M University and his master's degree in general agriculture from Texas A&M-Commerce.

In 1959, President Harry Jenkins hired Lewis to teach agriculture, part-time. It began a long and mutually rewarding association with TJC that continues today. Lewis retired as dean of admissions in 2004 but continues to be an active supporter of the College.

In 1962, Lewis became a full-time employee, teaching agriculture and assisting with the registrar's office.

Soon, Lewis's work in the registrar's and admissions areas became his exclusive occupation. Over the next four decades he spent much of his time on the road, recruiting students to TJC, and solving transfer and admissions problems for new students.

Lewis manages a 235-acre cattle ranch and for more than 40 years he has served as the East Texas State Fair's Junior Livestock Show chairman.

He is past president of the East Texas State Fair and the East Texas Farm and Ranch Club.

Next year Kenneth and Patsy Lewis will celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

### Luke Stephens, '94 Valuable Young Alumnus Award



After graduating from TJC in 1994, Luke Stephens continued his education at Austin College, where he received his bachelor's

degree in international studies. He later completed a master's degree in development practice from Oxford-Brookes University in England.

Born in Switzerland to missionary parents, Stephens lived on the world's largest non-governmental hospital ship from the age of 6 until he was 16. Surrounded by a multi-cultural environment his entire life, he is fluent in English, French and Portuguese.

In 2003, he joined Concern Worldwide, an Ireland-based humanitarian organization founded to help famine-stricken victims in Africa.

As assistant country director in Afghanistan, he now leads programs in two provinces to help rebuild basic infrastructure and provide the poor with food, security, water and sanitation.

Stephens has also worked in Haiti, Honduras, Iraq, Kosovo, Serbia and North Korea.

Stephens is engaged to Stephanie Sparks of Switzerland, a humanitarian worker for Medair who is currently stationed in the Congo.

The purpose of the Tyler Junior College Alumni Awards Program is to recognize individuals who merit honor and praise because of their significant contributions and service to the betterment of humanity, thus reflecting extraordinary credit on the College.

For more information, nomination forms, or to make reservations for this year's ceremony, call Nicole in the Alumni office at 903-510-2588, 1-800-687-5680, x2588, email [ndur@tjc.edu](mailto:ndur@tjc.edu), or fax 903-510-2632.



# Alumni NEWS

## CHAPTER NEWS

### HOUSTON



(L to R) Don Murphy, Jimmy Murphy and Ike Lucas discuss this year's Apache football season with new head coach, Jamie Critchlow.

Jimmy Murphy, '54, hosted the TJC/Houston Alumni Association chapter reception at his home in April. During the reception, Jimmy presented TJC President Dr. William R. Crowe with a check for \$10,000, to be deposited in the Nell and Floyd Wagstaff Endowed Athletic Scholarship Fund.

### WEST COAST

The West Coast Alumni Association chapter held an alumni reception at the historic Canter's Deli in Los Angeles in April. Special thanks to steering committee members Chele Graham-Welsh, Nick Wilkinson and Frank DeBenedetto for helping organize the gathering. The chapter plans to organize receptions each year and is working toward next year's date.

Before this year's reception, Jacque Shackelford, Mitch Andrews and Betty Briggs met with alumni Will Jennings in Santa Barbara; Donna Bullock in Venice Beach; Andy Roach in Pasadena; and Vice Admiral Howard Greer, ret. in La Jolla.

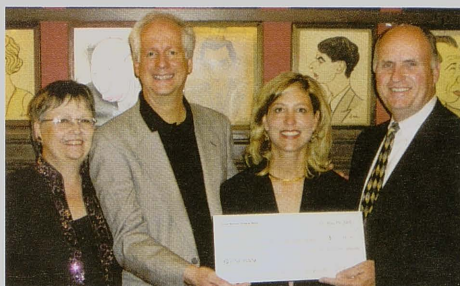


(left to right) Mitch Andrews, two-time Oscar Winner Will Jennings and Jacque Shackelford at the Jennings' home in Santa Barbara.

### EAST COAST

David Wren, '79, presented TJC President Dr. William R. Crowe with a check for \$1,000 to launch the "Have a Seat" theatre scholarship campaign during the TJC/East Coast Alumni Association chapter reception at Sardi's in New York City in May. Wren purchased the first seat in honor of one of his favorite speech instructors, Lawrence "Birdie" Birdsong.

"Birdsong is the last of the truly great gentlemen," Wren explained. "He patiently spent hours in his office at the end of the day... privately coaching me. My mother admired him tremendously and I remember overhearing them chatting and her saying, 'You know Larry, as parents, sometimes we fail at teaching our

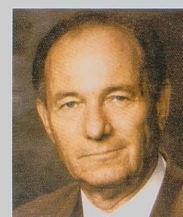


(L to R) Jacque Shackelford, David Wren, Dr. Kim Russell and Dr. William R. Crowe at Sardi's.

children only because we are the last ones they will listen to and I just wanted to thank you for teaching David what his father and I couldn't. He listens to you—and you take the time with him—and for that, I will be eternally grateful to you."

"I think Mama summed it up best when it came to Mr. Birdsong," Wren said.

### IN MEMORIAM



Long-time TJC Trustee Hollis T. Pinyan passed away June 12 after a battle with a lengthy illness.

Pinyan, 73, was elected to the TJC Board of Trustees in Place 7 in May of 1996. He was elected to a second six-year term in 2002.

"Hollis had a long and deep love for Tyler Junior College and loved to be involved," said TJC President Dr. William R. Crowe. "He wanted to be a part of as much as he could be and to know as much about Tyler Junior College as possible. He was a regular at our recognition dinners, plays and sporting events. ... He will be missed."

Pinyan was a retired sales and marketing manager of Polk Oil Company and Allied Transport Company. He retired from Polk Oil Company in 1993. He also worked for Consolidated Nursery and Universal C.I.T. Corporation. He served two terms on the Tyler City Council, 1982-86 and was mayor pro tem, 1985-86. He was appointed to the Tyler Planning and Zoning Commission in 1974 and served until 1982, was reappointed in 1995 and served until August 2001. He was active with the East Texas Lighthouse for the Blind and had served on its Board of Directors since 1986.

He is survived by his wife, Mary Totten Pinyan of Tyler; a sister, Juanita Reedy of Dallas; and nieces and nephews.

EVI

If you're interested in joining an alumni chapter or creating a new one, call 903-210-2371.



***("Freshman Orientation" continued)***

Sure enough, in late June, when they brought Victor to tour the campus, he was sold.

"Since we came here, all he's talked about is TJC," Mrs. Wells said. "He's been so excited about coming here." A nursing major, Victor said, "The environment just felt right. I liked the people and I liked the campus. It felt like where I needed to be, for now. I still have my sights set on North Carolina, but I want to start out here."

Chase Allen, Colby O'Neal and Nathan Sugg grew up together in Midlothian playing pee-wee football, and now they're attending TJC together as well.

"We just talked about it and visited the school and that was it," said Sugg, who is undecided on a major. "We decided it was the right place for us. The perfect thing is it's far enough from home that we can get away from everything we've ever known, but it's close enough that we can get home in a hurry if we need to."

Allen plans to study surveying and mapping, then eventually transfer to a four-year college.

O'Neal plans on studying business for two years then, he said, "I'm going to join the Marines and get my firefighting (certification)."

All divergent paths but, for now, the three amigos are sticking together.

"In fact, we've moved into a house together here in Tyler," Allen said. "I think we'll do all right living together. Doing our schoolwork and studying have never been a big deal for us, so I think we'll be fine."

Sugg adds, "I'm just ready to get started. I'm so excited about being here."

In June and July, incoming students participated in two-day freshman orientation sessions that provided an introduction to the TJC campus, faculty and staff, as well as an opportunity to meet one another.

This year, TJC officials unveiled a more streamlined freshman orientation than in years past. Focus was redirected to provide new students with necessary information in a more entertaining, efficient and enjoyable way.

*"Freshman orientation was very informative and it was very organized."*

On Day 1, new students and their parents were given advice and encouraging words by TJC faculty and staff members and treated to an overview of the college and its programs.

Mrs. Wells said, "Freshman orientation was very informative and it was very well-organized. As parents we learned a lot about how things work and what our son will be doing while he's here."

While parents attended a question-and-answer session in Wise Auditorium, incoming freshmen were sent on a scavenger hunt, which offered a fun way for them to learn their way around campus.

On the second day of orientation, students got down to business, meeting with faculty and financial aid advisers and completing their registration for the fall semester.

"It's been a lot of fun," Tollett said. "Everybody has been really nice, I've learned a lot and it's been a great time. I'm looking forward to whatever comes next."

***("Apache Territory" continued)***

"I set aside time for cheerleading, which means I also have to set aside time for homework," she said. "Sometimes I might come home tired and I might not want to do my homework, but I know I have to because my grades are important to me. That means giving something up, like maybe not going to some party I wanted to go to."

To be a TJC cheerleader is to spend an average of 10 hours a week in daily practice sessions and another eight hours per week at Apache sporting events, sometimes going to more than one game in the same day.

Mayfield says the hectic schedule suits her just fine.

"I have to be busy," she said. "I'd go crazy if I just sat around."

After hearing her tick off a typical week, it's easy to see she's not kidding.

"We have (cheerleading) practice or a game every day except Sundays and one other day during the week. On Tuesday's we have Phi Theta Kappa meetings, and I'll usually have to leave early to get to a game or practice. I was



**Sarah Ridley**

also a student assistant in the biology department."

Oddly enough, she says she's never kept a day planner.

"Once it gets to being a routine, I'm fine," she said. "I pretty much leave the house at 7:30 a.m. and get home around 11 p.m."

In addition to their rigorous schedule, Nguyen said all his squad members work hard to maintain excellence academically.


Out of 21 squad members last year, he said the group had an overall GPA of 3.48.

"They are some of the hardest working students you'll ever see," Nguyen said. "To do what they do – and to do it so well – it's just amazing. I couldn't be more proud."



**'Travelin' Max' serenades while pie-eating contestants compete**





# The TJC Foundation makes supporting higher education as easy as 1-2-3.

The Tyler Junior College Foundation introduces giving online.

TJC alumni, students, parents and friends can support superior undergraduate education and student life with an online contribution.

You may now charge your donation through the TJC Foundation Web site by following the 3 simple steps below.

## Step 1 – Decide where to direct your gift

- Exceptional schools of study, including Allied Health & Nursing, Applied Studies, College Preparatory Studies, Continuing Studies and University Studies
- Student life groups, such as Apache Band, Apache Belles, Phi Theta Kappa and athletics
- TJC's largest support organization, the Alumni Association
- The Foundation's annual giving opportunities: the President's Circle and the TJC Fund

## Step 2 – Fill out the secure online giving form

## Step 3 – Confirm and submit your gift

To give, simply log on to [www.tjc.edu/foundation](http://www.tjc.edu/foundation), select the "giving online" icon and follow the three easy steps above.

Support the nation's top junior college  
with your online gift today!





# Save the dates for these ALUMNI EVENTS

**OCTOBER 17**

*Drumbeat Begins 8:00 a.m.*  
TJC Campus

**OCTOBER 18**

*Vegas Style*  
**DINNER THEATRE**  
*featuring Christopher Carter*  
APACHE ROOMS, ROGERS. 7:30 PM  
Sponsored by TJC Student Senate

**OCTOBER 20**

*ALUMNI RECEPTION AND CAR SHOW*  
FAT WILLY'Z RESTAURANT, 6:00 PM

**OCTOBER 21**

*ALUMNI ALL SCHOOL PEP RALLY & LUNCH*  
JENKINS LAWN, NOON

**OCTOBER 21**

*ALUMNI RECEPTION FOR 1926-55 CLASSES*  
BOARD DINING ROOM, ROGERS, 5 PM

**OCTOBER 21**

*ALUMNI AWARDS DINNER DANCE*  
APACHE ROOMS, ROGERS, 6 PM

**OCTOBER 21**

*TJC STUDENT SENATE*  
*CAMPUS CAPERS TALENT SHOW*  
WISE AUDITORIUM, 8 PM

**OCTOBER 22**

*ALUMNI REUNIONS FOR APACHE BELLES,  
BAND AND CHEERLEADERS/  
ALUMNI TAILGATE PARTY*  
TMF ROSE STADIUM, 11 AM

**OCTOBER 22**

*HOMECOMING PRE-GAME SHOW*  
*COURT PRESENTATION AND RIM WALK*  
TMF ROSE STADIUM, NOON

**OCTOBER 22**

*HOMECOMING GAME*  
*TJC APACHES vs TRINITY VALLEY CARDINALS*  
TMF ROSE STADIUM, 1 PM



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